

Restorative Justice and Reentry

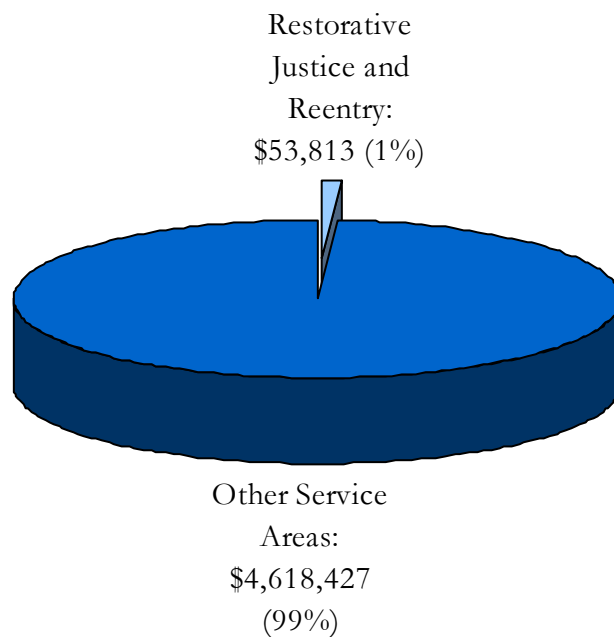
Goals and Services

Programs within this service area are intended to repair the loss or harm inflicted on victims and to provide alternative sanctions where possible as well as to promote successful re-integration of youth and adult offenders back into the community. Some examples of services provided by programs within this service area are re-entry services such as substance use treatment, employment readiness, and case management; domestic abuse and neglect resources such as counseling and parenting classes; victim-offender mediation; and conflict resolution/interpersonal skills training.

Contracted Service Provider included in this Service Area

Crime Prevention Institute, Inc.257

Percent of Investment in Restorative Justice and Reentry and Other Service Areas, 2008

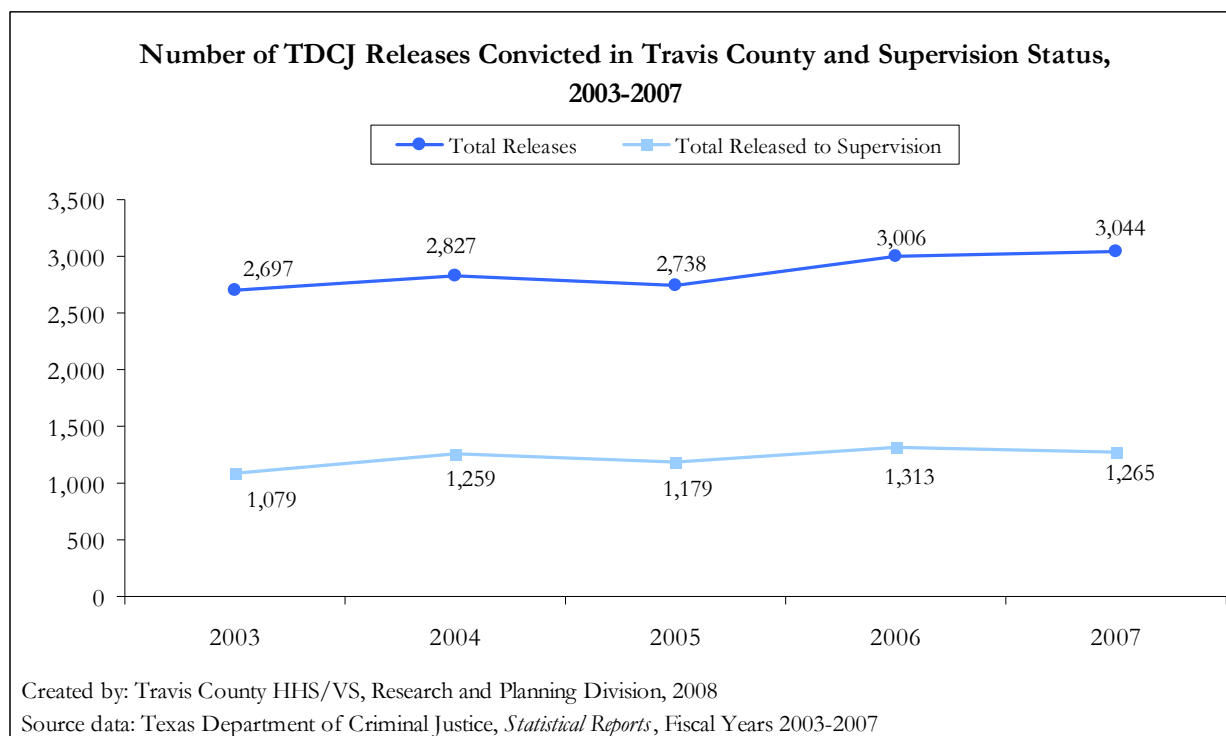


Highlights of Community Conditions

TCHHS/VS has departmental and contracted programs that provide both restorative justice and reentry services. Contracted services included in this current report and in this issue area focus on reentry services to support the reintegration of formerly incarcerated people back into the community. These services offer pre- and post-release reentry assistance for adults incarcerated in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice's (TDCJ) Travis County State Jail for non-violent felony offenses.

Successful **community reintegration following incarceration is critical** given that more than 95% of all state prisoners across the nation are ultimately released to the community.²¹⁶ Reintegration has implications for public safety, neighborhood residents, and family members. Over half of all state prisoners across the nation have children less than 18 years of age.²¹⁷ The risk of recidivism is significant: According to a 1994 national study by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, within three years of release, 68% of released prisoners were re-arrested and 52% were re-incarcerated for new offenses or violations of their parole or probation terms.²¹⁸

In this report, a prisoner's **county of conviction serves as an approximation of the county where prisoners will reside once released.**²¹⁹ The following graph shows that between 2003 and 2007 the number of people released from TDCJ who were convicted in Travis County increased slightly, rising by 13% or 347 people.²²⁰ Research indicates that the actual number of ex-prisoners returning to Travis County is greater than this approximation suggests (perhaps by as much as 44% for parolees).²²¹ This approximation therefore provides a *general* indication of local reentry trends. The following graph also illustrates that, of those released, slightly more than half were released to supervision during this period.²²²

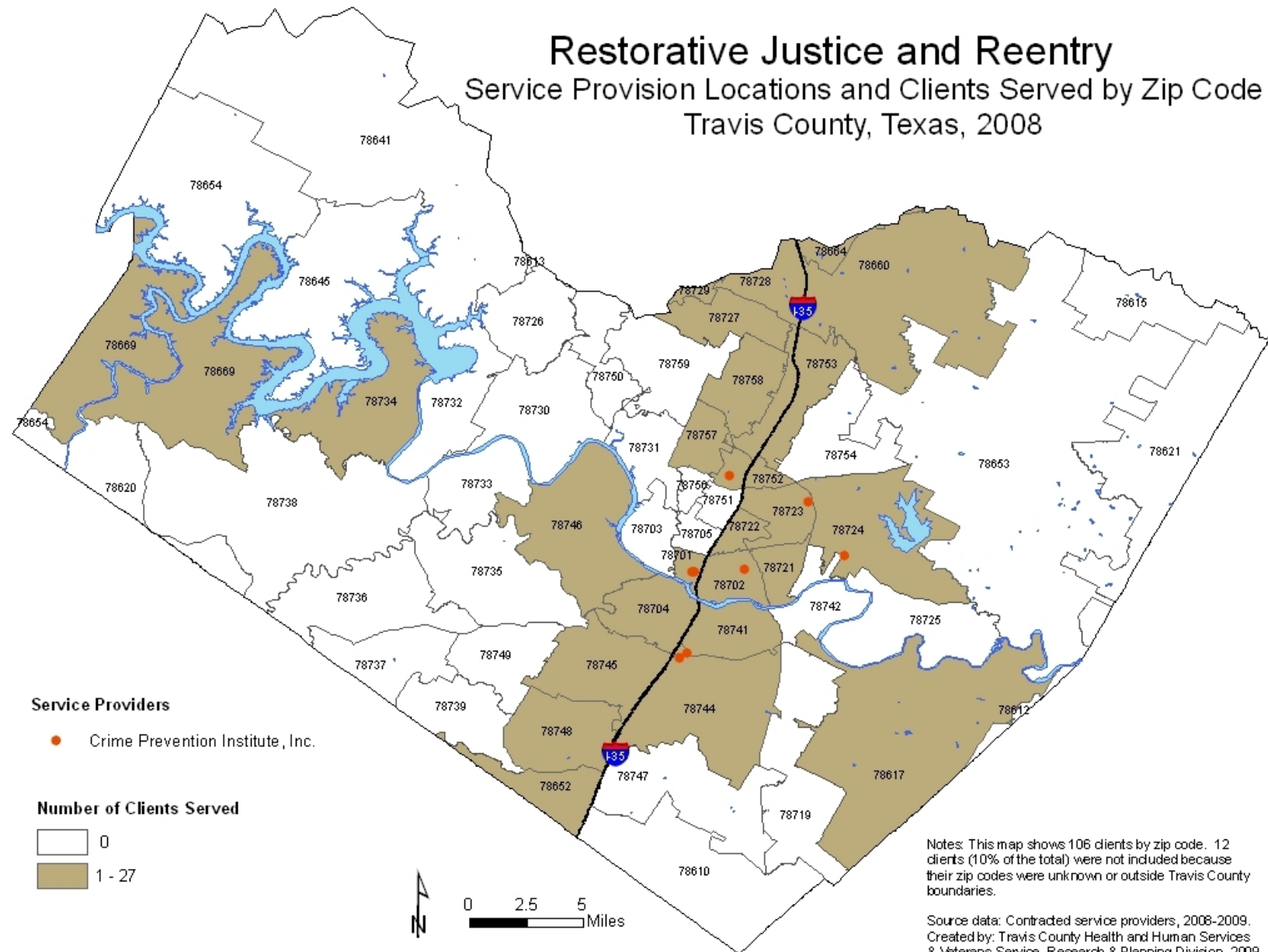


The **challenges of reintegration** are well documented. Ex-prisoners often leave Texas prisons and state jails with extensive criminal histories, significant employment barriers, limited education levels, substance abuse challenges, and mental health issues.²²³ Access to rehabilitation programs is particularly limited in Texas' state jails.²²⁴ A 2007 study suggested that former state jail confinees have higher rates of substance abuse, experience more difficulty securing employment upon release, and are more likely to be re-incarcerated than people released from prison.²²⁵ In accordance, services purchased in this issue area are directed at people released from the state jail.

Following are highlights of other **characteristics of people released from TDCJ** custody in 2007.

- The vast majority were male (85%), and the average age was 35.²²⁶
- Slightly more than a third (35%) were African American, 34% were Anglo, 30% were Latino, and the remainder was another race or ethnicity.²²⁷
- Few (16%) committed violent offenses, slightly more than a third (36%) committed drug offenses, 30% committed property offenses, and 18% committed other offenses such as driving-while-intoxicated and weapons offenses.²²⁸
- A majority (58%) was released from prison, 34% were released from State Jail, and 8% were released from Substance Abuse Felony Punishment facilities.²²⁹
- Nearly half (41%) were incarcerated 1 year or less, a quarter were incarcerated between 13 months and 2 years, and a third were incarcerated over 2 years.²³⁰
- Half were supervised once released to the community.²³¹

The faltering economy is likely to exacerbate reentry challenges if jobs commonly filled by ex-prisoners (e.g., construction) grow increasingly scarce.²³² It is also likely to increase the burden on ex-prisoners' families. Texas prisoners near release reported that "Family was the greatest anticipated source of financial resources, housing, and emotional support after release."²³³ Many ex-prisoners also face restrictions in accessing government assistance and are therefore unable to contribute these resources to the family as they seek employment.²³⁴ The economic downturn may only amplify the role that families play in the transition of formerly-incarcerated persons back into the community.



Crime Prevention Institute, Inc.

Targeted Project Re-Enterprise

Program Description

Crime Prevention Institute (CPI) delivers individualized, intensive case management to guide formerly incarcerated persons toward becoming productive, active, and employed participants in the community. CPI's Targeted Project Re-Enterprise (TPRE) program provides education encompassing such topics as job readiness, problem solving, networking, relapse prevention, and responsibility/accountability. Incarcerated individuals are also provided release planning and transitional services; and, they may participate in post-release case management and post-release support groups and qualify themselves for employment incentives.

Funding

The total TCHHS/VS investment in the TPRE program for 2008 was \$53,813. This investment comprised 36.4% of the total program budget.

Eligibility Criteria

This program serves non-violent, felony offenders returning to Travis County from incarceration in the Travis State Jail. Clients must present themselves for services within 48 hours of release, be alcohol and drug-free, and be able and willing to work on a full-time basis. Additionally, these offenders are released without community supervision (parole or probation) requirements.

Client Demographics

All post-release TPPE clients were male, and a majority (58%) were between the ages of 37 and 55. Nearly one in five (18%) of clients were Hispanic or Latino. In terms of race, Black or African-American clients accounted for the largest percentage of clients (53%), although a substantial percentage of clients were White (46%). All clients had incomes at or below 50% of the Federal Poverty Income Guideline level. (See Appendix C for specific guideline income levels.)

Gender	Number	Percent	Age	Number	Percent
Male	118	100%	18 to 24	9	8%
<i>Total</i>	<i>118</i>	<i>100%</i>	25 to 36	38	32%
			37 to 55	68	58%
			56 to 74	3	3%
Ethnicity			<i>Total</i>	<i>118</i>	<i>100%</i>
Hispanic or Latino	21	18%			
Not Hispanic or Latino	97	82%	Income		
<i>Total</i>	<i>118</i>	<i>100%</i>	<50% of FPIG	118	100%
			<i>Total</i>	<i>118</i>	<i>100%</i>
Race					
Black or African American	62	53%			
White	54	46%			
Black or African American AND White	1	1%			
Balance – Not Specified	1	1%			
<i>Total</i>	<i>118</i>	<i>100%</i>			

Note: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Client Zip Codes

TPRE post-release clients were heavily concentrated in the East and Southeast sections of Travis County. At entry into the program, the largest share (22.9%) of clients resided in the 78741 zip code while 15.3% resided in the 78724 zip code, which is located in the Southeast section of the County; and 11% resided in the 78745 zip code, which is located in the East section of the County. (See Appendix E for zip code classification map.)

Central	Number	Percent	North	Number	Percent	Northeast	Number	Percent	Southwest	Number	Percent
78701	2	1.7%	78727	2	1.7%	78660	3	2.5%	78652	1	0.8%
<i>Total Central</i>	2	1.7%	78728	1	0.8%	78664	1	0.8%	78704	1	0.8%
			78729	1	0.8%	78752	1	0.8%	78745	13	11.0%
East			78757	1	0.8%	78753	4	3.4%	78748	1	0.8%
78702	5	4.2%	78758	2	1.7%	<i>Total Northeast</i>	9	7.6%	<i>Total Southwest</i>	16	13.6%
78721	8	6.8%	<i>Total North</i>	7	5.9%						
78722	1	0.8%									
78723	4	3.4%	Northwest			Southeast			West		
78724	18	15.3%	78669	1	0.8%	78617	1	0.8%	78746	1	0.8%
<i>Total East</i>	36	30.5%	78734	1	0.8%	78741	27	22.9%	<i>Total West</i>	1	0.8%
			<i>Total Northwest</i>	2	1.7%	78744	5	4.2%			
						<i>Total Southeast</i>	33	28.0%			
Other/Unknown											
Other	2	1.7%									
Unknown	10	8.5%									
<i>Total Other/Unknown</i>	12	10.2%									

Note: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Performance Goals and Results

The Targeted Project Re-enterprise (TPRE) program exceeded the goals for all but one performance measure. Program staff reported that the first two outputs, which track the total number of clients served by the program, were higher than expected because of heightened interest in the program. Staff members also explained that the third output, which measures the number of clients who obtained employment, was lower than expected primarily because fewer jobs were available. TPRE plans to increase the number of clients obtaining employment by providing additional and more intensive one-on-one guidance in the job search process and by allowing clients greater opportunity to use agency computers. TPRE, however, greatly exceeded the goal for the outcome performance measure, which measures employment retention. Staff members attribute this result to providing more intensive case-management assistance, which was possible given the lower caseload due to the lower number of employed clients.

Targeted Project Re-Enterprise Performance Measures, Actual Results, and Goals for 2008

Performance Measure	Total Program Performance Results	Total Program Performance Goals	% of Total Program Performance Goal Achieved
<i>Outputs</i>			
Number of unduplicated clients participating in pre-release Transition Preparation Groups	134	120	112%
Number of unduplicated clients served in Post-Release Case Management	118	108	109%
Number of unduplicated clients receiving Post-Release Case Management services who obtained employment	50	81	62%
<i>Outcomes</i>			
Percentage of Post-Release Case Management clients who obtained employment and retained employment for 90 days	68% (36/53)	49% (40/81)	138%